



Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar

Dec. 12, 2018

Webinar Script

Slide 1: Pre-webinar Title Slide

[Adobe Connect room opens approximately 15 minutes prior to webinar. Slide 1 displays until the start of the webinar at 2 p.m. EST.]

Slide 2: Title Slide

ALEXIS:

- Hello everyone!
- I'm Alexis Gioia, and I am the field representative for territory 43. I'd like to welcome you to today's Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar.
- As we get started, please take a moment to complete the polls on your screen. We're going to hold several polls during today's webinar to get your opinion on some interesting topics. Your responses will help inform our communication efforts, so, as always, we really appreciate your input. I will give you a few seconds for polls at this time.

Slide 3: Housekeeping Notes

ALEXIS:

- We have a lot to discuss during today's webinar, but before we begin our presentation, I want to cover a few brief housekeeping notes.
- First, please download and look at our hyperlink appendix, which contains links to the webpages and resources mentioned during today's presentation. We'll be referring to this throughout the webinar. You can access it at the bottom of your screen in the Webinar Resources pod.
 - While you're looking at that pod, you'll also notice that you can download a PDF of today's PowerPoint presentation and a glossary that defines the key terms and acronyms mentioned during the webinar.



- Additionally, if you experience technical difficulties at any point, please explain your problem through the Technical Difficulties pod on your screen, and we'll do our best to address your issue.
 - As a reminder, we are not taking questions during today's webinar. If you do have any questions about any items discussed during this presentation, please contact the SEVP Response Center—their contact information will be at the end of the presentation and is also included in your hyperlink appendix.
- Finally, if any of your colleagues are not able to join us today—we know that it's a busy time of the year with the holidays approaching—please make sure you direct them to our webinar recording. That recording, along with all the resources I just mentioned in the Webinar Resources pod, will be available on the Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar page, which is where you might have accessed today's webinar.

Slide 4: Today's Presenters

ALEXIS:

- As I mentioned, my name is Alexis, and I'll be your moderator for today's webinar. I'm also the SEVP field representative for territory 43, which includes Miami, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I'm familiar with SEVP headquarters since I started my career here in the School Certification Unit and, in addition to being a field representative, I am currently on detail with SEVP's Strategic Communications Team.
- I'm joined by two other SEVP field representatives today: Kimberly Large from territory 15 and Robert Walters from territory 49. Between the three of us, we represent the three different FRU geographic regions—Eastern, Central and Western—so we'll have plenty of insight to share throughout today's presentation.
- Kimberly, would you mind taking a moment to introduce yourself?

KIMBERLY:

- Thanks, Alexis!
- Hi everyone—as Alexis mentioned, my name is Kimberly Large, and I'm the field representative for territory 15, which covers the state of Arizona. Prior to joining SEVP, I served as the PDSO at the University of Phoenix for 12 years and was responsible for multiple campuses nationwide.



ALEXIS:

- Thank you, Kimberly. Robert, can you give a brief introduction of yourself?

ROBERT:

- Sure thing! Hi everyone, my name is Robert Walters, and I am the field representative for territory 49, which covers the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. Before becoming a field representative, I served as a DSO at Drexel University’s English Language Center.

Slide 5: Presentation Overview

ALEXIS:

- Thank you both for those introductions.
- As you can see on our agenda, we have a lot to cover today. I’ll let you read through the agenda items yourself. We will have a few polling questions towards the end of today’s presentation, so make sure to stick around until the end to complete those.
- Also, I want to give a quick plug to our audience members from K-12 schools—we have a new resource for you that we’ll explain in our Helpful Resources section towards the end of this presentation, so please stick around for that, as well.

Slide 6: Ask the Audience—Today’s Audience

ALEXIS:

- To kick us off, I want to jump in with our first poll question to get a sense of who is in our audience. Please select the option that best describes your current position using the choices on your screen. And, if your role doesn’t fit nicely into one of the categories available, please describe it through the “other” pod by typing in your response.
- I’ll give you all a few moments to complete the poll.
- Thanks everyone for providing that insight. It’s great to see that, while we have a lot of DSOs in the audience, we still have a few other folks tuning in.



Slide 7: Ask the Audience—Today’s Audience

ALEXIS:

- We also have another follow-up question to get a sense of who is watching. We would like to know what type of school you represent—whether it’s post-secondary, K-12, or a vocational school. Please select the answer that applies best to you. Once again, I’ll give you a moment to respond. And if you are not representing a specific school, you can always just let us know who you represent through the comment function at the bottom of the screen.
- All right, thank you so much for your participation. And, as I just mentioned, for anyone from a K-12 school—and it looks like we do have some watching—please stick around until the end of today’s presentation to learn about a new resource from the DHS Office of Academic Engagement, one of our government partners, that is specifically designed for K-12 schools.

Slide 8: The Latest News

ALEXIS:

- We’re going to start this presentation with some of the latest SEVP news affecting school officials and our other stakeholders. Kimberly, do you mind walking us through the fall 2018 DHS regulatory updates that came out a month ago?

Slide 9: Fall 2018 Regulatory Update—SEVP-related Items from the Unified Agenda

KIMBERLY:

- No problem, Alexis. This is also a hot topic in my territory, so I’m happy to explain.
- DHS released the Fall 2018 Unified Agenda that included three topics that relate to SEVP.
 - The first topic pertains to DSO eligibility checks. DHS may consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking instituting eligibility checks for DSOs and ROs. For this presentation, we’ll focus specifically on DSOs. This rule will help DHS prevent criminal activities or threats to U.S. national security that may result from non-compliance by DSOs and SEVP-certified schools.



- The second topic is authorized stay, which I know is a hot topic with many stakeholders. In the coming months, DHS may consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, establishing a maximum period of authorized stay for F-1 students and other nonimmigrants. This means that DHS will propose to modify the authorized period of stay for certain nonimmigrants from duration of status and replace it with a maximum period of authorized stay with options for extensions.
- Finally, as many folks are probably aware, SEVP will adjust program fees in 2019. DHS will publish a final rule to adjust fees charged to international students, exchange visitors and SEVP-certified schools. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on September 17, 2018, and we received 296 comments. The rule is now in the final stage and is expected to be published in 2019. For more information, you can visit [RegInfo.gov](https://www.reginfo.gov) to read the complete Fall 2018 Unified Agenda.

Slide 10: Fall 2018 Regulatory Update—What Stakeholders Need to Know

ALEXIS:

- Thank you, Kimberly! Before we move on, I want to give a quick plug that we've included a link to [RegInfo.gov](https://www.reginfo.gov) in our hyperlink appendix, so folks can easily locate and learn more about these proposed regulatory items.
- SEVP has received many questions from stakeholders about timelines for these rules— I know that my DSOs are certainly interested in knowing when these changes might go into effect. With that, I'll ask the question we think is on everyone's minds: Are there any updates for when these rules might be published?

KIMBERLY:

- As of this moment, SEVP does not have a timeline for publication of proposed rules concerning eligibility checks or authorized stay, because both rules are currently in the initial stages of review. However, I really want to stress that SEVP will notify stakeholders about planned regulatory changes via your local SEVP field representative, Study in the States, social media and Broadcast Messages well in advance of the change. So, please make sure that you follow us on social media to stay up to date with the latest news about pending regulations.



- Also, I want to encourage stakeholders to use this opportunity to review and understand the federal rulemaking process, which includes the initial stages of review and the public comment period.

ALEXIS:

- Would you be able to quickly explain what the comment period is, Kimberly? I know the comment period recently closed for the fee rule, so I want to make sure that folks are aware of this opportunity and how they can provide feedback to the government, especially as new regulations are developed and published.

KIMBERLY:

- Of course. The public comment period is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on a proposed rule. SEVP reviews and considers all public comments when developing new rules. As a reminder, if you submit comments on proposed rules to SEVP via your field representative, the SEVP Response Center, or any other way, they are not able to be considered in the review process. If you want to learn more about this process and how you can submit your comments on any upcoming proposed rules, you can read the “The Guide to Federal Rulemaking Process,” which is located at [FederalRegister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) and in our hyperlink appendix.
- As I wrap up, I want to mention again that it is important to remember that SEVP notifies stakeholders in advance of any proposed regulatory changes via Study in the States and associated social media channels. Also, your local SEVP field representative will both inform you of the change and be available to answer any questions. So, you can guarantee that you will hear about any of these changes before they happen.

Slide 11: Ask the Audience—Fee Rule Impact

ALEXIS:

- Thanks Kimberly, that’s a great point. I’m always happy to inform my school officials about any developments and answer their questions about potential new regulations.
- Okay, I want to pause for another brief poll question to get a sense of how many of those watching were aware of these proposed regulatory changes before today’s webinar. I’ll let you all select the appropriate response on your screen.



- Thanks for taking the poll, everyone. From the results, we can see that some were aware, while today may be the first time others are learning about the regulatory changes.
- Kimberly, since you've been covering regulatory updates, do you want to continue with an update on unlawful presence? Even though USCIS published this notification earlier this year, it's probably beneficial to give a quick recap for our audiences.

Slide 12: Government Partner Notification— Accrual of Unlawful Presence by F and M Nonimmigrants

KIMBERLY:

- Sure thing! I know that this continues to be a hot topic in my territory, and I'm sure it's a hot topic in your territory, as well, Alexis.
- For those who may not be aware, USCIS reissued an updated policy memorandum on August 9, 2018, related to accrual of unlawful presence by F and M students. The updated policy changes the calculation of unlawful presence for students and dependents who fail to maintain their nonimmigrant student status in the United States.
- Certain actions by F and M students may cause them to accrue unlawful presence, where previously these actions did not have this effect. Now it's important to note that, under certain circumstances, accrual of unlawful presence can render students ineligible for certain immigration benefits and make them inadmissible to the United States.
- For more information, you can reference the August 2018 Broadcast Message: Accrual of Unlawful Presence by F and M Nonimmigrants, located under the Broadcast Messages tab on [ICE.gov](https://ice.dhs.gov) and in our hyperlink appendix.

Slide 13: Frequently Asked Questions—USCIS Unlawful Presence

ALEXIS:

- Thanks, Kimberly. I want to use this opportunity to ask you one of our frequently asked questions that came up during one of our conferences this fall. Given the changes to unlawful presence, our stakeholders would like to know if students still have a grace period to depart the United States?



KIMBERLY:

- The answer is, yes. There is a 60-day grace period for F-1 nonimmigrant students and a 30-day grace period for M-1 nonimmigrant students to depart the United States after program completion. Nothing has changed regarding grace periods.
- And, I also want to quickly note to please contact USCIS with any additional questions related to the accrual of unlawful presence. Your SEVP field representative will be able to answer any questions related to SEVP, but USCIS remains the authority on this memo. You can learn more about how to contact USCIS on their website, which we've linked to in your hyperlink appendix.

ALEXIS:

- Thanks, Kimberly.

Slide 14: Notifications and Follow-Up

ALEXIS:

- Our next section focuses on some important content related to the SEVP Portal, and other reminders for school officials. Robert, let's get you involved in the conversation – do you mind taking this section?

Slide 15: December 2018 SEVIS Release—SEVP Portal Upgrade

ROBERT:

- Sure thing, Alexis!
- So, we are excited to provide some updates, tips and reminders regarding the SEVP Portal. SEVP is scheduled to upgrade SEVIS in early 2019. This release will include several enhancements specific to the SEVP Portal regarding revised reporting timelines.
- The SEVIS upgrade will allow the SEVP Portal to send automated email reminders to STEM OPT students 30 days before their six-month validation reports are due. These reminders are confirmations that the U.S. address and employer information that the student submitted is correct and up-to-date.



- This SEVIS release will also allow the SEVP Portal to send automated email reminders to STEM OPT students 30 days before their 12-month and final self-evaluation validation reports are due.
- Another feature of the SEVP Portal upgrade is that it will allow access for STEM OPT students to view a schedule of reporting due dates in the SEVP Portal. There will be other potential features included in the SEVP Portal upgrade. SEVP will continue to update our stakeholders with any additional information. I do want to mention that all of these features are in response to stakeholder needs presented to SEVP, so thank you for your suggestions.

Slide 16: SEVP Portal—Tips and Reminders for DSOs

ALEXIS:

- Thanks for those updates, Robert. DSOs, make sure that you stay tuned to the SEVP Portal Help section of Study in the States because new resources will be available there soon. As a reminder, we have the SEVP Portal Help link in the hyperlink appendix.
- Robert, can you continue with some reminders and tips regarding the SEVP Portal?

ROBERT:

- Of course.
- This slide contains tips and reminders for DSOs regarding the SEVP Portal account creation process. To access the SEVP Portal, students must enter their current SEVIS ID number on the registration page. We often get questions about where students can find their SEVIS ID number, and, as you can see on the slide, we've included a reminder that this is located in the left-hand corner of the Form I-20.
- It is important to remember that the portal locks a student's account after three incorrect attempts to enter their SEVIS ID number. If your student's account is locked, they must contact you, their DSO, for assistance.

ALEXIS:

- And, I want to jump in here, Robert, with a quick question related to what you just mentioned. We've received some questions from stakeholders about whether SEVP plans



to implement functionality that would allow students to reset their own account. Do you know if something like that is in the works?

ROBERT:

- That’s a good question! SEVP plans to provide students with the functionality to reset their own portal accounts in an upcoming release. As always, you’ll hear about this release from your field representative, SEVIS Broadcast Message or Study in the States.

ALEXIS:

- Thanks, Robert. Anything else to add before we move on?

ROBERT:

- I want to quickly give a plug for two SEVP Portal resources for students and DSOs on Study in the States—our “Top Questions from DSOs about the SEVP Portal” and “Top Questions from Students about the SEVP Portal” documents contain answers to some of our most frequently asked questions about the portal. You can access these resources in our hyperlink appendix and on Study in the States.

Slide 17: Ask the Audience—SEVP Portal Hot Topics

ALEXIS:

- Before we move on from the SEVP Portal, we want to ask another poll question. We’re curious to know: DSOs, what are the hot topics and common issues that your students are experiencing with the SEVP Portal? Please select from the options on your screen and, if you’ve encountered a hot topic or issue not listed, please take a moment to write it in using our “other” option.
- Thank you all for taking the time to respond. We see that the resetting of passwords is a hot topic amongst our DSOs today. This is some great feedback that we will certainly pass on to our team here to use for future blog posts and Study in the States resources.
- Robert, do you want to continue with what DSOs need to know about SEVIS Release 6.41?



Slide 18: Unemployment Calculation—SEVIS Release 6.41

ROBERT:

- Sure thing.
- So, as you may know, SEVIS Release 6.41 changed how SEVIS calculates unemployment accrued by students on post-completion OPT and STEM OPT. As of October 26, 2018, SEVIS now calculates the total number of unemployment days, as required by regulation.
- There are a couple of important things for folks to note about this release:
 - Specifically, for STEM OPT students, SEVIS will not include accrued days of post-completion unemployment in its display of unemployment days for STEM OPT.
 - To calculate the total days of unemployment for STEM OPT students, add any accrued unemployment days for post-completion to the STEM OPT unemployment.
- It's also important to add that SEVIS will check students' records daily and count each day where there is a gap in employment. If you want to find the unemployment calculator, it is displayed in the expanded view of the SEVIS Employment Information page.
- For more information about OPT and unemployment, visit the F-1 Optional Practical Training page on the SEVIS Help Hub. This link is included in the hyperlink appendix.

ALEXIS:

- Now, I know the auto-terminate function tends to come up a lot during our conferences and school visits. Anything you can add there, Robert?

ROBERT:

- Yes, Alexis. While SEVP is assessing the SEVIS auto-terminate function, it will not be turned on for students who go over the unemployment limits set by regulation. Once evaluation of the function is complete, SEVP will fully engage the auto-terminate action. SEVP will communicate the implementation of the auto-terminate action to stakeholders at that time through your field representative, Broadcast Message and associated communication channels.



Slide 19: Recertification Approval Notice—What DSOs Need to Know

ALEXIS:

- Thanks for going into quick detail about that, Robert. Can you explain some of the information DSOs need to know about recertification approval notices?

ROBERT:

- Sure thing, Alexis.
- DSOs should be aware that SEVP is no longer issuing a PDF “Notice of Recertification” upon successful recertification. All recertification approval notices are now sent via SEVIS to improve efficiency. We want to be clear that this will have no impact on recertification processes. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the SRC or your local SEVP field representative. As you know, we’re always happy to answer your questions.

ALEXIS:

- Thank you for explaining that, Robert. It’s very important that our stakeholders are aware of how SEVP will communicate with schools about the recertification process moving forward.
- Sticking with the topic of school certification processes, would you mind providing a reminder about how DSOs can update a locked petition?

Slide 20: Reminders for School Officials—Updating a Locked Petition

ROBERT:

- Of course. I receive a lot of questions from school officials—as I’m sure both you and Kimberly do—about how to make changes to the Form I-17 when it is locked for a pending update or recertification.
- As I’m sure those watching are aware, schools with a locked Form I-17 must report any material changes to their Form I-17 to SEVP within 21 days of the change. This is required by federal regulation and necessary for schools to remain in compliance with the regulations.
- We’ve listed two email addresses on this slide that DSOs should contact when they need to make an edit to a locked petition. I want to direct folks to the second address,



SEVP@ice.dhs.gov. The PDSO must email all material changes, except for PDSO and DSO changes, to this address and provide all required evidence with this email.

- For more information on updating a locked petition, you can visit our Study in the States resource on Form I-17 updates – the link to it is in the hyperlink appendix.

Slide 21: Enhanced Resources—Evidence Guides and Checklists

ALEXIS:

- Great. Now, we've also had some DSOs ask for reminders about SEVP's updated evidence guides. Could you quickly speak to that?

ROBERT:

- Of course.
- As you may know, SEVP recently updated its evidence guides to better inform stakeholders of evidence requirements for initial certification, Form I-17 updates and recertification. As a quick reminder, these guides contain an overview of common evidence requirements. SEVP recommends that DSOs refer to these guides while reviewing their evidence checklists.
- SEVP organized these checklists according to the action the school plans to take on the Form I-17 and school type. These actions include:
 - Initial SEVP certification,
 - Form I-17 updates, and
 - Recertification.
- It is also important to note how to label school type by accreditation status, which can be accredited or non-accredited, and by K-12, flight school, or postsecondary.

Slide 22: Field Representative Unit Updates—Current Vacancies

ALEXIS:

- Thank you, Robert.
- Okay, we know we have given you all a lot of recent updates and reminders from SEVP. I want to step in and give you all a quick update on our field representative deployments and vacancies before we move to our next section.



- This fall, SEVP deployed field representatives to two territories – Raleigh, North Carolina and St. Louis, Missouri. I’m sure anyone from those territories watching has heard from and hopefully gotten to know your field representative.
- We now have three vacancies in El Paso, Texas, New York City and Omaha, Nebraska. Until a field representative is deployed to your area, please continue to contact the SRC for assistance. Our SRC customer service representatives will be happy to answer your questions.

Slide 23: Don’t Forget

ALEXIS:

- Let’s move into our next section, which provides tips and reminders for school officials. With the winter holidays approaching, we’ve focused the bulk of our reminders on holiday trips. That said, Kimberly, can you kick it off with some tips and reminders for both DSOs and international students regarding holiday travel?

Slide 24: Holiday Travel—Tips for Students

KIMBERLY:

- Sure thing, Alexis.
- The winter holidays are approaching, and you may have students who wish to travel internationally or back home for the holidays. It is important that you, as their DSO, communicate these three main tips to your students before they plan their holiday travel:
 - First, students should meet with their DSO prior to any international travel so that you can ensure the student’s SEVIS record is up-to-date and in Active status. Also, your student should have your updated contact information and a 24-hour emergency number, just in case anything happens while they are travelling or if there are any questions at the U.S. port of entry when the student is reentering the country.
 - Second, DSOs should make sure their students know what to bring to a U.S. port of entry when they travel into and out of the United States. These items include both a valid passport and student visa, as well as the student’s Form I-20. These items



MUST be with the student at the port of entry and should not be in their checked luggage.

- Our third and final tip is that the student should understand the Form I-515A and its purpose. A CBP officer may issue a Form I-515A at the U.S. port of entry in special cases.
- For more information on tips your students should know during holiday travel, visit our “Students: Read these Tips for Traveling During the Holidays” post, which we’ve included in our hyperlink appendix.

Slide 25: Student Travel—Form I-515A

ALEXIS:

- Kimberly, you just mentioned the Form I-515A. Can you go into more detail about what this is and when a student may receive one at a U.S. port of entry?

KIMBERLY:

- Well, the Form I-515A grants students temporary admission into the United States at a U.S. port of entry. Typically, this form is issued if a student does not carry all required documentation or has a SEVIS status issue. We’ve listed the Form I-515A paperwork on the slide.
- If a student receives the Form I-515A, their DSO will receive an email notification and should assist the student in complying with all Form I-515A requirements. Please ensure that the student submits all required paperwork to SEVP within 30 days. Failure to respond to a Form I-515A may negatively impact a student’s status.
- I want to, once again, point you to our hyperlink appendix, which provides a link to our Resource Library on Study in the States that has a great graphic on “Handling the Form I-515A.” This tool, as well as many others on Study in the States, can be useful to all DSOs.

Slide 26: Ask the Audience—Holiday Travel

ALEXIS:

- Thank you, Kimberly. This information is especially important around the holidays. We have another poll question for you all on the screen. For our DSOs in the audience, have you



already talked to your students about their travel plans for the holidays? We'll give you a few seconds to answer.

- Thanks everyone for taking the time to respond. It looks like almost all of you have already spoken with your students about holiday travel.

Slide 27: Verify Your School Officials—SEVIS Annual Verification

ALEXIS:

- Since it's December, it's also important that we discuss SEVIS Annual Verification. I know some of those seasoned DSOs may be familiar with this process since it occurs every year, but Kimberly, what do stakeholders, including those that may be new to the field, need to know?

KIMBERLY:

- Any DSO who has logged into SEVIS since December 2, 2018 should have seen a reminder about the start of the SEVIS Annual Verification period. This period means that the school's PDSO must log into SEVIS between now and March 2, 2019, and confirm that all current SEVIS users are still employed by the organization, serve as a PDSO or DSO, and require continued SEVIS access.
- This is an important action that the PDSO is required to take each year to comply with federal information system regulations. Failure to complete this annual verification will result in loss of SEVIS access for all DSOs at the school. Please view the annual verification broadcast message, which can be found at [ICE.gov/Whats-New](https://ice.dhs.gov/Whats-New) – a link is also available in our hyperlink appendix.

ALEXIS:

- Thanks for that reminder, Kimberly. For all PDSOs watching today, absolutely make sure you complete the annual verification before that March 2 deadline, and for all DSOs watching, make sure you remind your PDSO about this important process, so you don't lose SEVIS access on March 3.



Slide 28: Facts + Figures

ALEXIS:

- As part of our next section, we are going to transition and look at some interesting statistics related to how SEVP has used stakeholder feedback over the past year to improve our internal processes and develop new resources.
- But I don't want to spoil this section, so I'll hand it over to you, Robert, to talk through the next few slides.

ROBERT:

- Thanks, Alexis. Before I get started, I want to stress that SEVP really does listen and respond to stakeholder feedback. We receive feedback from a lot of different sources—whether during a conference, through SRC or an SEVP field representative—and we use this feedback to help improve our processes and communication.

Slide 29: SEVP Year in Review—Responding to Stakeholder Feedback (Intragovernmental Collaboration)

ROBERT:

- This first slide looks at collaboration with our government partners. Based on feedback from conference attendees, we heard that (1) you wanted to see more conference sessions where SEVP presents alongside our government partners, and (2) you wanted to learn about how SEVP works with our government partners on areas of joint responsibilities.
- As the numbers on the slide indicate, SEVP actively presented with and to our government partners throughout 2018. Our trainings to government partners teach them about SEVP's mission, while our presentations communicate information about shared responsibilities and processes.



Slide 30: SEVP Year in Review—Responding to Stakeholder Feedback (Government Transparency)

ROBERT:

- Next, let's look at updates to the Trends and Improvements section on Study in the States. For those of you who might be unfamiliar with this section, Trends and Improvements seeks to increase government transparency by providing the most up-to-date information about how the government is responding to stakeholder feedback.
- As you can see on the slide, we updated this section three times over the past year to capture how SEVP has implemented stakeholder feedback on interagency coordination, Form I-17 process improvements and processing times for PDSO and DSO Form I-17 updates.
- If you haven't had a chance to read through this section, I strongly encourage you to take some time to browse through the different topics.

Slide 31: SEVP Year in Review—Responding to Stakeholder Feedback (Study in the States Blog Posts)

ROBERT:

- One of the main ways we use stakeholder feedback is to develop Study in the States content, whether it's through a blog post or a resource page. When we hear from you that there's a topic causing confusion, or there's just something you want to know more about, we work with our subject matter experts to develop new blog posts or other resources. On this slide, you can see a few of the blog posts we developed over the last year that were the direct result of stakeholder feedback.

Slide 32: SEVP Year in Review—Responding to Stakeholder Feedback (Study in the States Resource Pages)

ROBERT:

- Similarly, this next slide looks at how we've used your feedback to create new Study in the States resource pages. We've heard from our stakeholders that you needed more



resources on Study in the States specific to SEVIS records and SEVP Portal content, so we uploaded three new resources this year. We're constantly working to improve information on Study in the States, so please take every opportunity to provide feedback to us.

ALEXIS:

- That was certainly an informative section, Robert. It's great to see how SEVP is actively working to address stakeholder feedback and really taking stakeholder suggestions into consideration.
- Before we move on, I want to note that the links to all web pages just mentioned—the Trends and Improvements section, blog posts and resource pages—are included in our hyperlink appendix. If you haven't already, please take a moment to download this resource before the end of the webinar.

Slide 33: Ask the Audience—SEVP Response to Stakeholder Feedback

ALEXIS:

- Now that we've just covered the ways that SEVP responded to your feedback over the past year, we want to hear about how well you think we're doing. Please take a moment to respond to the poll question on your screen and provide your opinion as to how well SEVP responds to stakeholder feedback. Again, if you have additional thoughts, please feel free to use the comment function.
- Thank you for taking the poll, everyone. If you're wondering about how to provide feedback to SEVP, you can do so either by contacting your local field representative or the SRC.

Slide 34: Helpful Resources

ALEXIS:

- Thank you, Robert and Kimberly, for presenting on some very important topics for our stakeholders during today's SEVP InFocus webinar. We really appreciate your added insight on these topics.



- We'll now move on to our final section, which highlights some of our newest stakeholder resources. As we go through this section, you'll notice that we have a few feedback questions on the screen about today's webinar. Please take a second to respond to these questions.
- Kimberly, while folks are taking these polls, can you talk through these new resources?

Slide 35: New Exercise Starter Kits for K-12 Schools—Information for DSOs

KIMBERLY:

- Sure, I'll start with one of our newest resources. As we mentioned earlier in this presentation, our partners at the DHS Office of Academic Engagement released a new resource for K-12 schools to assist with active shooter training. Please turn your attention to the slide to see the materials that are available in these starter kits.
- To request Exercise Starter Kits for your school, you can visit the link at the bottom of your slide and in our hyperlink appendix. We hope that our K-12 school officials will take advantage of this resource and share it with your school administrators and safety officers.

ALEXIS:

- That's a great resource, Kimberly. I know I'll be sharing that with my school officials.

Slide 36: New Study in the States Resource—Maintaining Accurate SEVIS Records

KIMBERLY:

- Another helpful resource for our DSOs is the Maintaining Accurate SEVIS Records page on Study in the States. This new resource provides DSOs with an overview of various SEVIS functions and reporting tips, including reinstatements, transfers, school records in SEVIS, annual verification, site visits and on-site reviews.
- This page also links DSOs to additional resources that cover: maintaining student records, getting started with SEVP certification, and full course of study. DSOs can learn more information by visiting the link on the bottom of your slide.



ALEXIS:

- And, if you haven't guessed it, that link is also in our hyperlink appendix. I know SEVP hosted a webinar this fall and earlier in the year on a couple of hot topics. Would you mind providing a brief recap for our viewers?

Slide 37: Miss a Webinar?

KIMBERLY:

- As we have discussed throughout today's session, SEVP hosts multiple webinars throughout the year to keep our stakeholders informed of program updates and trends in international education.
- In September 2018, SEVP hosted the Government Voices Webinar: Campus Partnerships with DHS. This webinar discussed different entities involved in the international student process, including Project Campus Sentinel and Project Shield America.
- SEVP also hosted the SEVP Ask the Experts Webinar: What DSOs Need to Know about Record Keeping in June 2018, which focused on record keeping and reporting requirements for SEVP-certified schools. This webinar specifically included a live question and answer session with SEVP representatives.
- These webinars, along with many others, are accessible on the Study in the States Stakeholder Webinars page.

Slide 38: SEVP Portal Help

KIMBERLY:

- We also want to continue to share our SEVP Portal Help section of Study in the States, especially as we plan for future portal releases. We've provided a screenshot of the Portal Help section main page on this slide. From this page, users can:
 1. Learn how to create an SEVP Portal account,
 2. View tips for maintaining a user password,
 3. View tips for navigating and updating information in the SEVP Portal, and
 4. Access additional resources and guides.



- You can access this resource from the link on the bottom of your slide and in our hyperlink appendix.

Slide 39: Resource Library

KIMBERLY:

- The last resource we want to share today is our Resource Library on Study in the States. The Resource Library contains free aids for students and DSOs that explain federal regulations and the international student process, such as the international student life cycle infographic, SEVIS reporting requirements infographic, and a welcome infographic for DSOs to provide to new international students. This is one of my favorite resources to promote to school officials, and I often direct them to these graphics during my school visits.

ALEXIS:

- I agree. This is a great resource.

KIMBERLY:

- It really is and it's easy to use. The library previews the infographics in list form, displaying a thumbnail image and short description. To view a resource without leaving the library, open the infographic in a new web browser tab. You can also use filters to sort by topic and audience type. Stakeholders can access the Resource Library at the link on the bottom of your slide, or in our hyperlink appendix.
- So, if you haven't already checked out this resource, I strongly encourage you do so after the webinar. You can print any image in the library in either color or black and white—you might find it useful to print these items and post them at your desk for easy reference.

Slide 40: Engage with SEVP—Stay Connected

ALEXIS:

- Thank you for those resources. With that, let's move on to our final slides. If you haven't already, please make sure that you take a moment to complete the polls on your screen.
- Kimberly, would you mind telling folks about how they can stay connected with SEVP?



KIMBERLY:

- Sure thing, Alexis. As this presentation has demonstrated, we have many great resources and ways for stakeholders to stay informed about the latest news from SEVP.
- Some specific things that we want to highlight are the SEVP Spotlight and SEVP Outreach Bulletin. You can learn more about these publications on the Study in the States Conferences page, which is listed on the slide and in our hyperlink appendix.
- And speaking of the Conferences page, you can also submit event requests to SEVP and other government partners on that page if your school, or any association you are a member of, has an upcoming event where you would like us to present.

ALEXIS:

- Also, remember that we frequently post on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, so be sure to connect with us on those platforms, as well.

Slide 41: SEVP Contact Information

ALEXIS:

- Finally, don't forget that there are numerous ways to get in touch with SEVP.
- The SRC is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, except on federal holidays. We have a few of those coming up soon—Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 2018, Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2018, and New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2019—so just be sure to keep those in mind. And you can always reach out to us through the email addresses you see on the screen.
- Before we sign off, I want to encourage everyone to please take a moment to complete the polls listed on your screen, if you haven't already. Thanks to Kimberly, Robert and to all those that joined today.
- I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

Slide 42: Webinar Closing Slide

[Slide 42 displays until the Adobe Connect room closes at the conclusion of the webinar.]